



WOBURN

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The City of Woburn occupies 13.1 miles of the Fells Upland and is a suburban industrial city located along the upper Mystic Valley. Incorporated in 1642, Woburn became an early manufacturing center, tanning leather and making shoes. Production was large enough so that during the King Philip's Wars, town taxes were partially paid in shoes. The smallpox epidemic of 1675 cut deeply into the town's population. The Middlesex Canal from Boston opened in 1803 and the Boston and Lowell Railroad in 1835. Woburn continued to make boots and shoes and in 1855 made \$280,000 in footwear, but by 1865 there had been a shift away from manufacturing shoes and toward the production of leather. In that year alone, the tanneries of Woburn shipped \$1.7 million of leather and Woburn was at the head of the tanning industry in the country. Immigrants from Ireland, Nova Scotia and Canada moved to Woburn to take the jobs in the tanneries and in 1884, 26 large tanneries employed 1500 men producing \$4.5 million worth of leather. Henry Thayer of Woburn originated chrome tanning, which took the place of bark tanning, in 1901. The tanyards clearly supplemented the city's subsistence farming from the earliest settlement times. By 1915 there was some diversification in the city's economy and residents were making ice cream, machine tools, mops and paper boxes among other things. Woburn developed as an early English town settlement and has a notable early burying ground. Suburban growth began in the mid-19th century and has continued.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Wilmington on the north, Reading and Stoneham on the east, Winchester on the south, Lexington on the southwest, and Burlington on the west. Woburn is 10 miles north of Boston, 10 miles north of Waltham, 16 miles south of Lowell, and 218 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 12.90 sq. miles

Land Area: 12.68 sq. miles

Population: 35,943

Density: 2,835 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lexington, Wilmington, Boston North, Reading

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 932-4400

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor-Council

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1642

As a city: 1889

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	20,979		
Democrats	9,199	43.8	%
Republicans	1,840	8.8	%
Other parties	6	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,934	47.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Woburn city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	37,258	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	37,258	100.0
Male.....	18,212	48.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1,152	3.1
Female.....	19,046	51.1	Mexican.....	75	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,148	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	537	1.4
5 to 9 years.....	2,240	6.0	Cuban.....	29	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,223	6.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	511	1.4
15 to 19 years.....	1,903	5.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	36,106	96.9
20 to 24 years.....	1,906	5.1	White alone.....	33,176	89.0
25 to 34 years.....	6,454	17.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	6,539	17.6	Total population.....	37,258	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,820	12.9	In households.....	37,014	99.3
55 to 59 years.....	1,716	4.6	Householder.....	14,997	40.3
60 to 64 years.....	1,579	4.2	Spouse.....	7,422	19.9
65 to 74 years.....	3,208	8.6	Child.....	10,839	29.1
75 to 84 years.....	1,914	5.1	Own child under 18 years.....	7,258	19.5
85 years and over.....	608	1.6	Other relatives.....	1,920	5.2
Median age (years).....	37.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	507	1.4
18 years and over.....	29,396	78.9	Nonrelatives.....	1,836	4.9
Male.....	14,176	38.0	Unmarried partner.....	663	1.8
Female.....	15,220	40.9	In group quarters.....	244	0.7
21 years and over.....	28,419	76.3	Institutionalized population.....	100	0.3
62 years and over.....	6,694	18.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	144	0.4
65 years and over.....	5,730	15.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	2,330	6.3	Total households.....	14,997	100.0
Female.....	3,400	9.1	Family households (families).....	9,652	64.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,013	26.8
One race.....	36,837	98.9	Married-couple family.....	7,422	49.5
White.....	33,744	90.6	With own children under 18 years.....	3,081	20.5
Black or African American.....	697	1.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,640	10.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	36	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	739	4.9
Asian.....	1,806	4.8	Nonfamily households.....	5,345	35.6
Asian Indian.....	932	2.5	Householder living alone.....	4,304	28.7
Chinese.....	358	1.0	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,520	10.1
Filipino.....	79	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,346	29.0
Japanese.....	46	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	4,110	27.4
Korean.....	96	0.3	Average household size.....	2.47	(X)
Vietnamese.....	165	0.4	Average family size.....	3.09	(X)
Other Asian ¹	130	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	19	0.1	Total housing units.....	15,391	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	14,997	97.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	11	-	Vacant housing units.....	394	2.6
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	5	-	occasional use.....	79	0.5
Some other race.....	535	1.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	421	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	14,997	100.0
White.....	34,075	91.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	9,177	61.2
Black or African American.....	811	2.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	5,820	38.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	115	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.74	(X)
Asian.....	1,950	5.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.04	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	39	0.1			
Some other race.....	701	1.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	415
Conventional Federal	100

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	0
Federal (Section 8)	156



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Woburn is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 38; U.S. Route 3; and Interstate Route 93, which passes along the eastern border and forms an interchange with State Route 128 just over the line in Reading.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Mishawum Station in Woburn. Travel time: 24-26 min.; 195 MBTA parking spaces available. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Woburn is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to neighboring towns and stations on the Red and Orange Lines. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR) located in Bedford, has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Logan Express, and M and L Transportation, provide scheduled daily service between Woburn and Logan Airport.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Rumford Historical Association

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Caufield Center

New England Rehab Hospital

Long Term Care

Glendale Nursing Home

Woburn Nursing Center, Inc.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Tidd Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.